



Customer Information

809 N. Broadway/1st floor/Milwaukee, WI 53202-3617414-286-8211

Community Living Arrangements (CLAs)

Community Living Arrangements (CLAs) refer to any of the following facilities licensed, operated or permitted by the State of Wisconsin:

- Residential Care Center – a facility where 4 or more children reside and are provided with care and maintenance for no more than 75 days in any consecutive 12 month period by persons other than a relative or guardian
- Group Home or Group Foster Home – a facility where 5 to 8 foster children reside and are provided with care and maintenance by persons other than a relative or guardian
- Community Based Residential Facility - a facility where 5 or more adults not related to the operator reside and are provided with care, treatment or services above the level of room and board but less than nursing care.

Anyone proposing to operate a CLA in the city of Milwaukee must be licensed by the State of Wisconsin and obtain an occupancy certificate from the Milwaukee Development Center to use the premises as a CLA.

A service provider interested in opening a Community Living Arrangement must first make application to the State of Wisconsin for licensing and the Department of City Development must receive notification of application for licensure from the State of Wisconsin. Only after the DCD receives this notification can application be made for an Occupancy Certificate.

For information regarding the licensing of Residential Care Centers or Group Homes or to access a directory of licensed facilities, please visit the State of Wisconsin website at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childrenresidential>. Or call the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Division of Safety and Permanence at (262) 521-5100; their office is located at 141 N.W. Barstow St., Room 104, Waukesha, WI 53188.

For information regarding the licensing process for Community Based Residential Facilities or to access a directory of licensed facilities, please visit the State of Wisconsin Website at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bqaconsumer>. Or call the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and

Family Services, Bureau of Assisted Living at (414) 227-2005; their office is located at 819 N. 6th St., Room 609B, Milwaukee, WI 53203-1606.

An occupancy certificate for a Community Living Arrangement can be granted only if the facility meets City and State locational requirements or is granted an exception from these requirements. State Statutes specify that a Community Living Arrangement may not be located within 2,500 feet of another CLA unless granted special zoning permission (special use) from the City of Milwaukee, Board of Zoning Appeals. However, if it is determined by the City of Milwaukee that the facility serves clients that are disabled as defined by s. 295-201-144 of the Milwaukee Zoning Code, the 2,500 foot distance requirement does not apply and no Board of Zoning Appeals approval is required. One other condition the proposed CLA must meet before the occupancy permit can be granted is that the number of residents in the proposed facility must be allowed by the zoning regulations for the property. If it is determined that the number of residents proposed for the CLA exceeds the maximum number allowed by the zoning code, the operator must receive a special use permit from the Board of Zoning Appeals regardless of the disabled status of the clients.

The Department of City Development maintains a map of CLA locations in the city of Milwaukee and informs the State and various City departments and officials whether or not a proposed CLA is permitted or will require special zoning permission. If you have a question about the location of existing CLAs in the city of Milwaukee, please visit the State of Wisconsin websites at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childrenresidential> and <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bqaconsumer> or call DCD's Planning Administration section at 286-5715.